

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6741

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SHUM, CSCE, UR
SUBJECT: DISSIDENT ROUNDUP

REF: MOSCOW 6025 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. TURCHIN COMMENTS ON THE RECENT SILENCE FROM WASHINGTON ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USSR. GENERAL GRIGORYENKO WILL BE OUT OF THE HOSPITAL SOON; HE IS VERY DEPRESSED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT. YURIY AND NELLI MNYUKH, TWO LEADING ACTIVISTS, ARE TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION. THE COMMITTEE OF UNOFFICIAL ARTISTS FORMED TO SUPPORT THE CSCE OBSERVATION GROUP HAS COLLAPSED. END SUMMARY.

2. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEMBER VALENTIN TURCHIN RECENTLY DISCUSSED THE CURRENT SILENCE IN WASHINGTON ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION. HE SAID IT WAS APPARENT THAT AFTER THE FAILURE OF SECRETARY VANCE'S TRIP TO MOSCOW IN MARCH, PRESIDENT CARTER HAD DECEIDED TO STOP ALL COMMENTARY ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USSR. TURCHIN
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REJECTED THE IDEA THAT PRESIDENT MAY HAVE ACTED AS HE DID FOR FEAR OF STIMULATING A CRACKDOWN ON HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS. HE SAID THAT SUCH A CONCLUSION WOULD BE UNJUSTIFIED, AND THAT CERTAINLY NO SOVIER DISSIDENT WOULD AGREE WITH IT. HE SAID THE CRACKDOWN NOW IN PROGRESS WAS PLANNED BY THE AUTHORITIES BEFORE ANY STATEMENTS WERE MADE BY THE PRESIDENT. FURTHERMORE, ANY

SUPPORT FROM THE WHITE HOUSE COULD ONLY HELP THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAUSE IN THE SOVIET UNION, NOT HARM IT.

3. GENERAL GRIGORYENKO IS STILL IN THE HOSPITAL ALTHOUGH HE EXPECTS TO BE RELEASED IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. HE WENT INTO THE HOSPITAL FOR AN OPERATION TO REMOVE HIS PROSTRATE GLAND, BUT THE CONDIITION OF HIS HEART PREVENTED THIS FROM TAKING PLACE. HE HAS PUT THE OPERATION OFF FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. HE REPORTEDLY HIS EXTREMELY DEPRESSED ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND ITS FUTURE; SO MUCH SO THAT HE IS GIVING SERIOUS THOUGHT TO ASKING FOR PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE USSR TO VISIT HIS SON (NOW IN THE U.S.) AND OTHER RUSSIAN EMIGRES. HE RELIZES THAT ONCE OUT OF THE COUNTRY HE ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN (ALTHOUGH HE WANTS TO COME BACK), AND THIS REPORTEDLY IS ONE OF THE REASONS THAT HE IS HOLDING BACK. THE OTHER IS THAT HE REALIZES THAT WITH HIS DEPARTURE THE ALREADY BADLY DEMORALIZED HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT WOULD LOSE ONE OF ITS FEW REMAINING LEADERS. IT IS INDICATIVE OF THE EXTENT OF GRIGORYENKO'S DISCOURAGEMENT THAT HE SHOULD EVEN CONSIDER LEAVING.

4. YURIY AND NELLI MNYUKH, WHO HAVE RECENTLY BECOME PROMINENT IN THE CSCE OBSERVATION GROUP, HAVE BEEN GRANTED EXIT PERMISSION. THEIR EXIT VISAS ARE VALID UNTIL JUNE 5. WE GATHER THAT THE MNYUKHS FEEL THAT THER PERMISSION RESULTS FROM THE DESIRE OF THE AUTHORITIES TO SAP THE STRENGTH OF THE MOVEMENT BY ALLOWING SOME OF THE ACTIVISTS TO LEAVE. THE MNYUKHS ALSO REPORTEDLY FEEL CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT THEIR DEPARTURE MAY PROVIDE THE SOVIETS WITH SOME USEFUL AMMUNITION FOR THE BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE.

5. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED OF A RECENT CRACKDOWN ON NATIONALISTS IN LITHUANIA. ON APRIL 20, AND FOR TWO DAYS THEREAFTER, MORE THAN 50 RESIDENTS OF KAUNUS, LITHUANIA'S SECOND CITY, WERE INTERROGATED AND THEIR APARTMENTS SEARCHED. SO FAR ONLY ONE OR TWO PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. THOSE QUESTIONED WERE ALL ETHNIC LITHUANIANS WHO HAD EXPRESSED THEIR NATIONALISM BY ORGANIZING VISITS TO NATIONAL MONUMENTS, AND ENGAGING IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. WE ARE TOLD THAT THIS IS THE BIGGEST CRACKDOWN ON LITHUANIAN NATIONALISTS IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

6. OSKAR RABIN TOLD US RECENTLY THAT THE COMMITTEE OF ARTISTS FORMED TO SUPPORT THE CSCE OBSERVATION GROUP HAD COLLAPSED. HE SAID THAT IT HAD NEVER AMOUNTED TO MUCH, AND THAT IN RETROSPECT IT WAS A BAD IDEA TO HAVE STARTED THE COMMITTEE. HE WAS NOT SORRY THAT IT HAD DIED,

ALTHOUGH HE REGRETTED THAT ARTISTS COULD NOT BE MORE
ACTIVE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. ORGANIZING SUCH
A BODY, HE NOTED, WAS NOT THE WAY TO GO ABOUT HELPING
THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
MATLOCK

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